

Major Moves Help Desk

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Hundreds of Major Moves Supporters Rally at the Statehouse

By Lesley Stedman Weidenbener
The Courier-Journal

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mitch Daniels told a raucous crowd of supporters and opponents at a Statehouse rally Tuesday that they were for his Major Moves transportation plan or “against our future.”

Hundreds of supporters of the plan roared with his every word, but a group of vocal opponents sometimes drowned Daniels out, causing him to pause and eventually say: “Maybe the 99 percent of you here for our future would like to be heard from at this point.”

“Let’s build our future,” Daniels said, “and leave a better state behind.”

Major Moves includes a 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road to a foreign firm for \$3.85 billion in upfront cash, money that would be used for other construction projects, including the Ohio River bridges.

As introduced by Daniels, the plan also would have authorized him to extend Interstate 69 with

a public-private partnership that would involve tolls and a lease to an operating company.

The House approved the proposal largely as Daniels proposed it, but the Senate has amended it to include legislative oversight of future projects, including I-69.

Many in the crowd came from southwestern Indiana, where support for the extension of I-69 from Indianapolis to Evansville is strong.

“I want to see the highway in my lifetime,” said Tiffany Ball, who traveled to the Statehouse in a six-bus caravan that brought 275 people from Evansville.

Ball wore a shirt that read “Southwestern Indiana supports Major Moves” and said she even supports tolls.

“If that’s going to make it quicker and better, I’m all for it,” she said.



Major Moves supporters pack the Statehouse for an afternoon rally.

Governor's Office Photo

Major Moves Supporters

Dozens of groups, businesses, and elected officials support Major Moves.

Add your name on the list.

Contact:
anorris@gov.in.gov

Learn More about Major Moves

www.majormoves.in.gov

Did You Know?

11% of major roads in Indiana have pavement ranked in poor condition.

20% of the roads have pavement ranked in mediocre condition.

Questions Answered About Major Moves

Questions that have recently been posed by and to members of the Indiana General Assembly concerning Major Moves.

Is it true that Indiana won't be able to make any improvements to State Road 20 and State Road 120 for 50 years if we lease the Toll Road?

Absolutely not. In fact, after years of struggling, Major Moves means Indiana will finally have funding to improve our streets and roads. The lease agreement only limits the state's ability to build a new interstate quality road within 10-miles of the Toll Road. It will not have any impact on Indiana's ability to maintain, repair, update, or add lanes to existing roads, or build new non-interstate roads.

Is it true that the group buying the road will get their money back in 15 year, leaving 60 years of profit?

No. According to the private company, it hopes to recover about \$385 million of its \$3.85 billion investment in the first 15 years.

Why can't Indiana keep the road and have these profits?

The Indiana Toll Road does not make a profit. In fact it has lost money in five of the last seven years. The private company hopes to make a profit because as a company it can deduct depreciation from its taxes and run the road more efficiently, along with inflationary increases in the tolls.

What happened to the governor's pledge "Indiana First?"

As you may know, the United States has an enormous trade deficit. As a nation, we send billions of dollars overseas when we purchase products. Major Moves brings that money back and uses it to put Hoosiers to work. It's no different than Toyota building in Princeton, Indiana. It may be a foreign company, but the paychecks are going to Hoosiers.

